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A106

U R G E N T

NEW YORK, DEC. 17 (AP)-SOVIET AMBASSADOR MIKHAIL A. MENSHIKOV WARNED TONIGHT THAT RUSSIA MIGHT TEST "SUPER-BOMBS" IF THE UNITED STATES UNDERGROUND TESTS AND STANDBY PLANS FOR ATMOSPHERIC BLASTS ARE NOT SCRAPPED IMMEDIATELY.

THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOLD A TELEVISION AUDIENCE THAT IT WAS "QUITE POSSIBLE" THE SUPER-BOMB EXPLOSION WOULD BE A 100-MEGATON BOMB.

"... YOU PEOPLE WANT TO CONTINUE TO EXPLODE AND YOU ARE ACTUALLY CONTINUING THOSE TESTS UNDERGROUND AND PREPARING TO MAKE THE TESTS IN THE ATMOSPHERE," MENSHIKOV SAID, ADDING:

"IF THESE TESTS ARE NOT STOPPED AT ONCE, THEN OF COURSE WE WILL START OUR TESTS AGAIN, AND NOT ONLY ORDINARY BOMBS, BUT PERHAPS SUPER-BOMBS ALSO."

THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, APPEARING ON THE TAPED TELEVISION PROGRAM "OPEN END" WITH DAVID SUSSKIND (WNEW-TV) FOR SHOWING AT 9 P.M. TONIGHT, WAS ASKED IF RUSSIA WOULD DETONATE A 100-MEGATON BOMB. HE REPLIED: "QUITE POSSIBLE, QUITE POSSIBLE."

THE UNITED STATES CURRENTLY IS CONDUCTING A SERIES OF UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR BLASTS.

LAST NOV. 2, PRESIDENT KENNEDY SAID THE NATION'S SCIENTISTS WERE GETTING READY FOR POSSIBLE ATMOSPHERIC TESTS BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE ORDER FOR THEM TO START DEPENDED ON THEIR NECESSITY BASED ON WHAT HE TERMED FREE WORLD SECURITY IN LIGHT OF WHAT RUSSIA WAS DOING.

MENSHIKOV RECALLED THAT THE SOVIET CLOSED ITS SERIES OF ATMOSPHERIC TESTS LAST OCTOBER WITH A 50-MEGATON BLAST RATHER THAN A 100-MEGATON SHOT.

"YES, THEN IT WAS DECIDED THAT 50 MEGATONS WOULD BE ENOUGH," HE SAID. DURING MUCH OF THE REST OF THE PROGRAM, THE SOVIET OFFICIAL REITERATED HIS AND SOVIET PREMIER KHRUSHCHEV'S REPEATED CALLS FOR COMPLETE AND GENERAL DISARMAMENT BEFORE ANY INSPECTION PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED.

HE INSISTED THE 50-MEGATON BLAST BY THE RUSSIANS LAST OCTOBER WAS "A REPLY TO MILITARY BUILDUP" IN THE WESTERN NATIONS.

PS659PES

A34WX

U R G E N T

TEST BLAST

WASHINGTON, DEC. 17 (AP)-THE UNITED STATES EXPLODED A SMALL NUCLEAR DEVICE UNDERGROUND AT ITS NEVADA TEST SITE TODAY, THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION ANNOUNCED.

IT WAS THE SEVENTH ANNOUNCED EXPLOSION IN THE CURRENT SERIES OF UNDERGROUND WEAPONS TESTS.

THE AEC ANNOUNCEMENT, IN FULL:

"A NUCLEAR TEST OF LOW YIELD WAS CONDUCTED UNDERGROUND TODAY BY THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AT ITS NEVADA TEST SITE."

A LOW-YIELD BLAST IS ONE WITH A FORCE EQUIVALENT TO NO MORE THAN 5,000 TONS OF TNT. A SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY'S EXPLOSION WAS WELL BELOW THE 5,000-TON LEVEL.

AS HAS BEEN ITS PRACTICE THROUGHOUT THIS SERIES OF TESTS, THE AEC WOULD GIVE NO DETAILS ON THE DEVICE USED OR THE RESULTS.

JK223PES NM

A8

(400)

NATO BUDGET

BY STANLEY JOHNSON

MOSCOW, DEC. 17 (AP)-THE SOVIET PRESS TODAY GLOATED OVER THE DISPUTES WITHIN THE NATO ALLIANCE DISCLOSED AT ITS SESSION IN PARIS LAST WEEK.

BUT COMMENTATORS ASSERTED THAT MANY OF THE DISPUTES WERE DELIBERATELY STIRRED BY NATO MILITARY LEADERS SO THAT AN ATMOSPHERE OF CRISIS WOULD GIVE THEM AN EXCUSE FOR STEPPED-UP WAR PLANS.

THAT WAS THE VIEW OF GEORGI RATIANI WRITING IN PRAVDA.

"THE DIPLOMATIC ARGUMENTS OF THE WEST CANNOT HIDE THE ESSENCE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC BLOC AS AN INSTRUMENT OF PREPARATION FOR WAR AND AGGRESSION," HE WROTE IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER.

ALL PAPERS FEATURED THE SPLIT AMONG THE NATO ALLIES ON THE CONGO QUESTION AND FRENCH REFUSAL TO SUPPORT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON BERLIN.

THEY ALSO SAW THE PARIS MEETING AS ONE MORE STEP IN WEST GERMAN EFFORTS TO GAIN CONTROL OVER THE ALLIANCE.

THE REASON FOR THE CONGO SPLIT IS SIMPLE, WROTE SERGEI ZHIKOV IN IZVESTIA, THE GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER.

"THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS AND FINANCES THE OPERATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS 'BLUE HELMETS' IN KATANGA," HE WROTE.

"BELGIAN, FRENCH AND BRITISH COLONIALISTS REGARD THIS AS A DIRECT THREAT TO THEIR INTERESTS ON THE PART OF AMERICAN MONOPOLISTS."

ZHIKOV SAID THAT THOSE POLITICIANS WHO SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF BERLIN TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ONLY DID SO BECAUSE PUBLIC OPINION IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES INSISTED ON IT.

HE SAID THE ALLIANCE WAS DIVIDED THREE WAYS--BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES FAVORING LIMITED TALKS ON BERLIN ONLY, THE MAJORITY OF SMALL COUNTRIES FAVORING WIDE RANGING TALKS ON THE WHOLE GERMAN QUESTION, AND FRANCE OPPOSED TO ANY NEGOTIATIONS.

HE CLAIMED FRANCE WAS ACTING AS A FRONT FOR "GERMAN REVANCHISTS"--OR REVENGE SEEKERS. THESE WEST GERMANS, HE ADDED, HAD SHOWN THEIR DETERMINATION TO DOMINATE NATO EVER MORE CLEARLY.

"THAT IS WHY THEY WANT ATOMIC WEAPONS SO MUCH," HE SAID.

A MAJOR POLYANSKY, WRITING IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY NEWSPAPER, RED STAR, SAID THE CONGO, ANGOLA AND GOA QUESTIONS CAME UP BECAUSE THE GROUND IS BURNING UNDER THE FEET OF THE COLONIALISTS. HE SAID THEY HAVE TO RESORT TO THE ATLANTIC BLOC FOR SUPPRESSING THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT. ANGOLA AND GOA ARE TROUBLED COLONIES OF PORTUGAL, A NATO MEMBER.

THE YOUNG COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER KONSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA SAID THE ONLY REASON FOR ADVERTISING DISPUTES IN NATO WAS "TO DISTRACT PEOPLE'S ATTENTION FROM A TRULY DEEP ROOTED CONTRADICTION -- THE CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD AND THE POLICY OF THE IMPERIALIST ATLANTIC BLOC."

MG/R1233PES

A14

BERLIN BUDGET (360)

BY GEORGE BOULTWOOD

BERLIN, DEC. 17 (AP)-THE U.S. ARMY TODAY ANNOUNCED IT WILL SEND ANOTHER UNIT ALONG THE LIFELINE AUTOBAHN TO WEST GERMANY TOMORROW, DEFYING COMMUNIST DEMANDS THAT SUCH TROOP MOVEMENTS MUST STOP.

THE ARMY SAID COMPANY "C" OF THE 3RD BATTLE GROUP, 6TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, WILL LEAVE BEFORE DAYLIGHT TO DRIVE THE 110 MILES THROUGH EAST GERMANY FOR A FOUR-DAY TRAINING EXERCISE IN WEST GERMANY.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME LESS THAN 24 HOURS AFTER THE COMMUNIST REGIME

OF EAST GERMANY SENT A NOTE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DEMANDING THAT TROOP MOVEMENTS ALONG THE AUTOBAHN BE STOPPED.
THE NOTE WAS SENT THROUGH PRAGUE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BECAUSE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE EAST GERMANY. SUCH EAST GERMAN NOTES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IGNORED.

THE U.S. BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS IN BERLIN SAID THE TROOP MOVE WAS BEING MADE SO THE COMPANY COULD UNDERTAKE TRAINING NOT FEASIBLE IN CRAMPED WEST BERLIN.

BUT IN WESTERN POLITICAL CIRCLES HERE THE FREQUENT MOVEMENT OF U.S. UNITS ALONG THE AUTOBAHN IN BOTH DIRECTIONS IS REGARDED AS AN ASSERTION OF ALLIED RIGHTS TO USE THE HIGHWAY.

THE NEW MOVEMENT WILL INVOLVE ABOUT 25 VEHICLES AND 150 MEN.

LAST WEEK THE U.S. ARMY COMPLETED THE EXCHANGE OF 3,000 MEN AND ABOUT 500 VEHICLES OVER THE AUTOBAHN IN A SWITCH OF BATTLE GROUPS. A NEW BATTLE GROUP WAS BROUGHT IN TO RELIEVE ONE RUSHED HERE LAST AUGUST AS REINFORCEMENT OF THE SMALL GARRISON WHEN THE COMMUNISTS BEGAN BUILDING THEIR WALL.

THE EAST GERMAN NOTE CALLED THIS "AN ILLEGAL AND PROVOCATIVE ACT." IT ALSO CLAIMED U.S. TROOPS IN BERLIN WERE PUT UNDER NATO COMMAND, THUS INCORPORATING WEST BERLIN IN THE ATLANTIC DEFENSE SYSTEM.

THE U.S. ARMY HAS FORMALLY DENIED THAT ITS MEN IN BERLIN COME UNDER NATO.

THE EAST GERMANS CONTENDED THEY ARE NOT OBLIGED TO PERMIT THE MOVEMENT OF NATO TROOPS TO BERLIN. THEY COMPLAINED OF DANGER TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC AND OF DAMAGE TO THE HIGHWAY.

THEY SEEMED TO BE MAKING A CASE FOR CLOSING THE AUTOBAHN FOR REPAIRS IF THE REDS WANTED TO INTERFERE WITH BERLIN'S COMMUNICATIONS. THE SAME EXCUSE WAS USED BY THE SOVIETS IN 1948 WHEN THEY BLOCKADED BERLIN IN AN EFFORT TO FORCE WEST BERLINERS TO ACCEPT COMMUNIST RULE.

R1255PES

END - DEC. 17, 1961